Comment for FCC GN Docket No. 25-133

Submitted by: Joseph Frailey - AA5EA

Date: April 02, 2025

Subject: Preserving Part 97 - The Essential Role of the Amateur Radio Service

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this comment in strong support of preserving the current regulatory framework of Part 97, which governs the Amateur Radio Service (ARS). While I understand and support the goal of eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens, I caution the Commission against any deregulatory action that would impair, limit, or reallocate resourcesespecially spectrumcurrently reserved for amateur radio.

Amateur radio is not a legacy systemits a living, breathing national asset. It operates at no cost to the taxpayer while providing immense value in terms of public safety, technical innovation, emergency communications, and educational outreach. The infrastructure is already built, maintained by private individuals, and ready to activate at a moments notice when disaster strikes. Thats a model of efficiencynot a burden.

Key Points:

1. Emergency Communications and Public Safety:

The ARS provides critical, last-resort communication during natural disasters, grid failures, and extreme weather eventsespecially in rural and underserved areas. Amateur radio has been indispensable during wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and even 9/11.

2. STEM and Innovation Incubator:

Countless careers in electrical engineering, communications, cybersecurity, and aerospace trace their origins to amateur radio. Its often a gateway to American innovationand far from being obsolete, hams today are experimenting with mesh networks, SDR, digital modes, satellite relays, and weak-signal propagation.

3. Spectrum Efficiency and Non-Commercial Use:

ARS users self-fund their equipment, training, and operations. Unlike commercial carriers, they dont ask for subsidies or universal service funds. Their use of spectrum is lean, dynamic, and incredibly cost-effective. That should be rewarded, not penalized.

4. National Security and Resilience:

In the event of cyberattacks, infrastructure failures, or EMP scenarios, ARS operators represent a resilient, decentralized communications backbone that no commercial network can replicate. Gutting it would be shortsighted and dangerous.

Final Thoughts:

I urge the Commission to treat any proposal to modify or weaken Part 97 with the utmost scrutiny. If the purpose of this deregulatory initiative is to enhance efficiency and benefit the American people, then the Amateur Radio Service is a model to preserve, not eliminate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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